AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1–7. (cancelled)

8. (previously presented) A method for conducting a conference between a near conference endpoint and a plurality of remote conference endpoints connected for communication by a network, comprising the steps of:

> at the near conference endpoint:
>
> generating local audio and video signals;
>
> receiving audio and video signals from the plurality of remote conference endpoints;
>
> creating a plurality of processing trains for processing the received signals, each processing train uniquely corresponding to one of the plurality of remote conference endpoints;
>
> processing the received audio and video signals;
>
> combining the processed audio and video signals with the local audio and video signals; and
>
> transmitting the combined audio and video signals to each of the plurality of remote conference endpoints.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of creating a plurality of processing trains includes creating a communication process and a set of codecs.

10. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of combining the processed audio and video signals is performed using an audio mixer and a video switching module.

11. (original) The method of claim 8 further comprising providing a circuit switch for instantiating the plurality of processing trains, the circuit switch including dynamically allocable inverse multiplexers.

12. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein the video switching module is selectively operable in a continuous presence mode, wherein images corresponding to each of the plurality of conference endpoints are displayed in separate areas of a composite image.

13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) <u>A multi-point capable video conferencing endpoint comprising:</u>

    <u>a network interface for receiving remote audio and video data from a plurality of remote endpoints through a network;</u>

    <u>an audio interface for receiving local audio data from a local source;</u>

    <u>a video interface for receiving local video data from a local source; and</u>

    <u>a CPU programmed to control receipt of the remote audio and video data, receipt of the local audio and video data; combination of the remote audio and video data with the local audio and video data; and transmission of the combined audio and video data to each of the plurality of remote endpoints through the network</u>~~The multi-point capable video conferencing endpoint of claim 13~~, wherein the CPU is further programmed to instantiate a plurality of processing trains corresponding to the plurality of remote endpoints, wherein each processing train receives the audio and video data from a single remote endpoint.

15. (previously presented) The multi-point capable video conferencing endpoint of claim 14, wherein each processing train comprises:

    a communication process for sending and receiving the audio and video data to and from a single remote endpoint;

    a video codec in communication with the communication process for encoding the sent video data and decoding the received video data; and

    an audio codec in communication with the communication process for encoding the sent audio data and decoding the received audio data.

16.   (previously presented) The multi-point capable video conferencing endpoint of claim 15, further comprising:

        a video switching module in communication with each of the plurality of processing trains and the video interface for combining the local video data with the remote video data; and

        an audio mixing module in communication with each of the plurality of processing trains and the audio interface for combining the local audio data with the remote audio data.

17.   (currently amended) The multi-point capable video conferencing endpoint of claim [[13]]14, wherein the network interface comprises a plurality of ISDN ports corresponding to the plurality of remote endpoints.

18.   (currently amended) The multi-point capable video conferencing endpoint of claim [[13]]14, wherein the network interface comprises an Ethernet connection.

19–22. (cancelled)